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(*b*) One of the conditions of the transfer of the institutions to the Government was that out of the savings resulting from such transfer, the local boards should agree to open and maintain within their areas one or more additional regular or rural *allopathic* dispensaries. If any local body prefers to utilize the savings in opening ayurvedic dispensaries, the Government will be prepared to consider such proposals.

Leper asylums in the Presidency.

* 300 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps Government or non-official bodies have taken to ascertain the extent to which leprosy prevails in the Madras Presidency other than that indicated in the Census reports ;

(*b*) the number, names of settlements, asylums and hospitals for treatment established by Government or private agencies, aided or not aided by Government, and the number of lepers treated as in-patients or out-patients in each and with what success ; and

(*c*) what steps have been taken by this Government to propose to the Government of India or by the Government of India themselves to amend the Indian Lepers Act to meet the modern scientific view of leprosy and the treatment required ?

A.—(*a*) Recent investigations show that leprosy is infectious only in the initial stage. The spread of the disease is due to the very large number of persons in the early stages of the disease, when it is difficult for any but skilled medical officers to detect infection, who are allowed to carry on their normal avocations. This prevents any accurate estimate of the extent to which leprosy prevails in the Presidency being attempted by Government. No information is available as to the steps taken by non-official bodies in this direction.

(*b*) A statement [a] giving the information relating to the patients treated in 1927 so far as information is available is furnished.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1595 given on 27th February 1928.

Tours

Tours by the hon. Minister for Public Health.

* 301 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of tours undertaken by him since the 31st March last up to date ;

(*b*) the districts visited by him ;

(*c*) the nature and extent of the official work done by him during those tours ;

(*d*) whether he did any party or propaganda work during those tours ;

(*e*) whether he paid from his pocket for the expenses of any of these tours ; and

(*f*) if not, why not ?

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a Printed as Appendix V on page 579 infra.

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A.—(*a*) Seven public and three private.

(*b*) Tanjore, Chingleput, the Nilgiris, Malabar, North Arcot and Coimbatore.

(*c*) During the public tours, inspections, interviews and addresses in connexion with the departments of Government, particularly of those in his charge.

(*d*) He did not and there was no occasion for it.

(*e*) He paid for his three private tours from his own pocket.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Agriculture

Propagation of scientific improvements in agriculture.

*302 Q.—Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to spread scientific knowledge, i.e., the results of experiments said to have been made at the agricultural stations among the ryots and the masses?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to paragraphs 184—298 of the administration report of the Department of Agriculture for 1926-27 and to the corresponding section on 'Demonstration' in former administration reports and the monthly digests published by the Department. The Government have also sanctioned two exhibition motor lorries fitted up with magic lanterns and a large number of exhibits designed to advocate better methods of cultivation, manuring, etc. These exhibition lorries can be taken to the most out-of-the-way villages for purposes of demonstration.

Fisheries

Researches made by the Fisheries department.

*303 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the fishery vessels and trawlers maintained by Government, with (1) their tonnage, (2) their original cost, (3) the object of their purchase or building, (4) the annual cost of maintaining them during the three years ending 31st March 1928, (5) the present condition of each and the purposes for which each was employed in the year 1927-28 and up to the close of the month of June 1928;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the "Lady Nicholson" was built for work connected with research, pearl and chank fishing, and if so, what is the amount of work done by her in those directions;

(*c*) why the newly arrived fishing trawler "Lady Goschen" is being fitted up for research work; and

(*d*) what have been the researches made by the Fisheries department on the sea and whether these results have been published?

A.—(*a*) A list of vessels and trawler maintained by the Fisheries department together with the information required regarding them is enclosed (Appendix A).[a]

(*b*) The "Lady Nicholson" was built for the inspection of pearl banks and research relating to the pearl and chank fisheries. The series of five successful pearl fisheries held recently at Tuticorin was the direct result of the inspection of the banks

a Printed as Appendix VI on page 580 infra.